

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original). A method of stripping an integrated circuit (IC) structure having a photoresist material and an organosilicate glass (OSG) material, comprising:

feeding a nitrous oxide (N₂O) gas into a reactor;
generating a plasma in said reactor;
stripping said photoresist; and
generating a high selectivity between said photoresist and said OSG.

Claim 2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said photoresist is an organic photoresist.

Claim 3 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said stripping said photoresist is one of a plurality of steps performed during a dual damascene process.

Claim 4 (original). The method of claim 3 wherein said stripping of said photoresist is performed in the same reactor used for etching said OSG material.

Claim 5 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising,

providing a via etched into said IC structure;
generating an organic plug that occupies said via; and
stripping said organic plug with said N₂O gas.

Claim 6 (currently amended). A method of stripping an integrated circuit (IC) structure including a first photoresist layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third organosilicate glass (OSG) layer, comprising:

feeding a nitrous oxide (N₂O) gas into a reactor;
generating a plasma in said reactor;
stripping said photoresist with said plasma;
generating a high selectivity between said first photoresist layer and said second ~~intermediate hardmask~~ intermediate layer; and
generating a high selectivity between said first photoresist layer and said third OSG layer.

Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 6 wherein said photoresist is an organic photoresist.

Claim 8 (original). The method of claim 6 wherein said stripping of said photoresist is performed in the same reactor used for etching said OSG layer.

Claim 9 (original). The method of claim 6 wherein said stripping said photoresist is one of a plurality of steps performed during a dual damascene process.

Claim 10 (original). The method of claim 6 wherein said second intermediate layer is a cap layer.

Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 10 wherein said cap layer is a selected from a group consisting of Silicon Dioxide (SiO_2) and Silicon Oxynitride (SiON).

Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 6 wherein said second intermediate layer is a hardmask layer.

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12 wherein said hardmask layer is selected from a group consisting of Silicon Nitride (Si_3N_4), Tantalum Nitride (TaN), Titanium Nitride (TiN), and Silicon Carbide (SiC).

Claim 14 (original). A method of performing a via first etch with an IC structure including a first photoresist layer, a second cap layer, and a third organosilicate glass (OSG) layer, comprising;

firstly, etching a via into said second cap layer and said third OSG layer; and

secondly, stripping said first photoresist layer with a nitrous oxide (N_2O) gas.

Claim 15 (original). The method of claim 14 further comprising, thirdly, generating an organic plug with said via that occupies part of said third OSG layer.

Claim 16 (original). The method of claim 15 further comprising, fourthly, etching a trench into said second cap layer and said third OSG layer.

Claim 17 (original). The method of claim 15 further comprising, fifthly, stripping said other first photoresist layer and said organic plug with said N_2O gas.

Claim 18 (original). The method of claim 17 wherein said photoresist is an organic photoresist.

Claim 19 (original). The method of 18 wherein said stripping said photoresist is one of a plurality of steps performed during a dual damascene process.

Claim 20 (original). A method of performing a trench first etch with an IC structure including a first photoresist layer, a second hardmask layer, and a third organosilicate glass (OSG) layer, comprising:

firstly, etching a trench into said second hardmask layer; and

secondly, stripping said first photoresist layer with a nitrous oxide (N_2O) gas;

Claim 21 (original). The method of claim 20 further comprising, thirdly, applying another first photoresist layer for performing a via etch.

Claim 22 (original). The method of claim 21 further comprising, fourthly, etching a via into said second hardmask layer, and said third OSG layer.

Claim 23 (original). The method of claim 22 further comprising, fifthly, stripping said other first photoresist layer with said N_2O gas.

Claim 24 (original). The method of claim 23 further comprising, sixthly, generating an organic plug within said via that occupies part of said third OSG layer.

Claim 25 (original). The method of claim 24 further comprising, seventhly, etching said trench into said third OSG layer.

Claim 26 (original). The method of claim 25 further comprising, eighthly, using said N_2O gas to strip said organic plug.